

## PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENT

Thursday, March 18, 2010

...2010 National Flood Safety Awareness Week...

The National Weather Service continues the annual Flood Safety Awareness Week campaign today through Friday, March 19<sup>th</sup>.

The theme for today is flood insurance and flood risk. Everyone lives in a flood zone, with their risk of a flood being low, moderate, or high. Floods are four times more likely to occur than a fire. High risk flood areas are not the only ones in danger, as 25 to 35 percent of all claims each year are paid for property located outside high risk areas.

Floods move and can spread for miles. They can have strong currents that in a few moments can sweep away everything that took a lifetime to accumulate, leaving nothing but mud and debris behind. Flood insurance is available, however, to help you insure your property against flood losses.

You may think that you are already covered for flood damage, but most homeowner insurance does not cover flood damage. Just a few inches of water in a home can cause thousands of dollars in damage.

Homeowners, renters, and business owners are eligible to purchase flood insurance as long as their community participates in the National Flood Insurance Program. This is a federal program enabling property owners to purchase insurance protection against losses from flooding. It takes 30 days after purchase for a policy to take effect, so it is important to buy insurance before floodwaters start to rise.

More information about the National Flood Insurance Program can be found at [WWW.FLOODSMART.GOV](http://WWW.FLOODSMART.GOV).

Additional information about Flood Safety Awareness Week is available at [WWW.FLOODSAFETY.NOAA.GOV](http://WWW.FLOODSAFETY.NOAA.GOV).